

members who share mutual labors sponsoring just over fifty ministries for congregants and the community. In addition to his role as an ordained minister, Dr. Simmons has played an important continuous role as a father, husband, and grandfather. Dr. Simmons continues to serve as an advocate for his community by committing to serving his members within the church as well as the wider St. Albans community, which encompasses a variety of Queens' diverse population.

Dr. Simmons began his public service as an ordained minister of the gospel as Associate Minister with the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, DC, from 1973–1977. In August 1977 he was called to serve as Senior Minister of the Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan. After six years of leading that congregations' renewal as a vital urban church, Dr. Simmons was elected in 1983 as Secretary for Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Church Development for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in New York City. For eight years he assumed primary staff leadership for the denomination's evangelism efforts in new and urban church renewal for African American, Latino, American Indian, and Pacific Islander-Asian American churches before moving to Queens, NY.

Dr. Simmons has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; Chair of the United Church of Christ Search Committee for General Minister and President; and President of the Southeast Queens Clergy for Community. Empowerment, Inc, now known as Clergy United for Community Empowerment. Among the awards and honors Dr. Simmons has received are citations for outstanding ministerial leadership from the Michigan State Legislature, the Detroit city Council, the New York City Council, and honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees for contributions to racial and social justice from the Ursinus College and Huston-Tillotson College.

Through his leadership, Dr. Simmons continues to represent wisdom and strength for the entire congregation of St. Albans Congregational Church. I am sure Dr. Simmons has faced many joys and challenges during his twenty year tenure at St. Albans Congregational Church, and I wish him continued success throughout the remainder of his time there. I applaud Dr. Simmons for all he has accomplished and for his unrelenting commitment to God, his family, public service, and the community of St. Albans.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero and a remarkable public servant, Cesar Chavez. Chavez is revered by people across our nation as a humble activist who led a monumental fight to improve labor conditions for migrant farm workers. His nonviolent crusade for social change was inspired by the hardship and injustices that he witnessed growing up as a farm worker. As a result of that upbringing, he

led a movement to achieve fair wages, worker protections, human rights and human dignity among the most underrepresented in our society. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for those efforts, and today, almost two decades after his passing, he continues to inspire young people to dedicate their own lives in service to others. In his words, "the end of all education should surely be service to others." His impact is timeless and cannot be understated. On behalf of my constituents in New Mexico's First Congressional District, I am proud to honor him before my colleagues in Congress.

CELEBRATING NOWRUZ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Nowruz, the traditional Iranian New Year, and take the opportunity to celebrate Iranian Americans' contributions to America. I wish Iranian Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

Nowruz originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz means a "New Day" which occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring. It symbolizes a time of renewal and community, and it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year.

Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300 million Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions. It is also celebrated by more than 1 million Iranian Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds.

Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community.

In 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian Americans carry today.

Iranian Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including government, military, and law enforcement officials, who proudly serve to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States.

The United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes to the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I missed roll-call vote No. 181 on H. Res. 170. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

CONGRATULATING TIFFANY FLYNN ON HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my District Chief of Staff, Tiffany Flynn. Twenty five years ago today, I hired Tiffany as a receptionist in my Flint office. Tiffany, who grew up in Lapeer, Michigan and graduated from Lapeer West High School, worked her way up in my district office to eventually become my District Chief of Staff. She now oversees my district staff and manages my offices in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City.

Tiffany is a reliable and focused manager. She has been instrumental in helping foster growth and revitalization throughout my district. Tiffany played a critical role in ensuring that the Flint Main Post Office Processing and Distribution Center and the Social Security Administration office remained downtown. She also played a leading role in the redevelopment of downtown Flint. Tiffany has not only been a great asset to my office, but also to the people of mid-Michigan.

Even after her workday is done, Tiffany continues to give back to her community by participating in a number of local activities and charities. Tiffany has been a member of the Rotary Board of Directors and is now president-elect of the Rotary Club of Flint. She works with the United Way and Muscular Dystrophy Association and supports the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint and the YWCA. Tiffany is also active in Women in Leadership, the League of Women Voters and in 2008 she received the ATHENA award by the Women's Business Council of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce for mentoring and inspiring young women.

Today, I want to thank Tiffany for her years of service, hard work and dedication to my office and to the people of mid-Michigan. Throughout the years, she has made a significant impact on my office and the lives of my constituents. I have been very fortunate to have had Tiffany on my staff for the last 25 years.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to salute the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the fine people being recognized at